

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A pressure control device for maintaining a constant predetermined excess pressure in a fluid dispensing container, which device comprises a first chamber, a fluid connection between the first chamber and the container, wherein the fluid connection comprises a first opening in the sidewall of the first chamber, a valve with a closing member for releasing and closing said fluid connection and a resilient pressure element exerting said predetermined excess pressure onto the closing member in a closing direction, the resilient pressure element comprising a second chamber being filled with a gas at the predetermined excess pressure and relative to which the closing member is movable, wherein the second chamber is provided with a second opening, the closing member extending from the first chamber through the first and second opening to the second chamber, a first subsurface of the closing member being situated in the first chamber and a second subsurface of the closing member being situated in the second chamber, the first chamber being filled with a gas at a pressure higher than said predetermined excess pressure, the size of the first subsurface is substantially smaller ~~that~~ than the size of the second subsurface, such that the gas pressure in the first chamber results in that the force on the first subsurface is smaller than the force on the second subsurface resulting from the predetermined excess pressure, while in use the first opening is released if the fluid pressure in the container drops below the predetermined excess pressure, so that gas flows from the first chamber to the container and the pressure in the container increases until the first opening is closed again by the closing member as a result of the increased pressure in the container, wherein the second chamber consists of a cylinder which is

Applicant : Jaap Herman Van't Hoff  
Serial No. : 10/657,250  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Page : 5 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 17042-004001

closed at a first end and of which a second end constitutes said second opening, and the closing member comprises a plunger movable in axial direction of the cylinder so as to change the volume of the second chamber, and wherein the closing member is movable in a reciprocated manner between a first extreme position and a second extreme position, whereby the fluid connection is closed, which first and second extreme positions are defined by an axial extend of a circumferential recess in the valve and the release position of the closing member is defined between the first and second closing positions and wherein the second subsurface forms a cavity in the plunger of the closing member.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein at the ~~upper~~ first and ~~lower~~ second extreme positions, a gas seal is formed by contact between a first sealing ring and an outer edge of the closing member.

14. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the closing member comprises a stem with the circumferential recess.

15-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the plunger is sealed by an outer second sealing ring with respect to the inner wall of the second chamber.

18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 17, wherein a sidewall of the cylinder, at a position located outside the second chamber, is provided with an opening through which said fluid connection extends to the container.

Applicant : Jaap Herman Van't Hoff  
Serial No. : 10/657,250  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Page : 6 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 17042-004001

19. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the second chamber is located outside the first chamber.

20. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 19, wherein the closing member is located substantially outside the first chamber.

21. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the volume of the first chamber is substantially greater than the volume of the second chamber.

22. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the device is arranged to be received in a cylindrical container, the first chamber being designed as a plunger which is arranged to be received, in use, in the container so as to be movable in an axial direction of the container, the first chamber dividing the container into an upper and a lower part, the fluid connection terminating in the lower part of the container, while the upper part of the container is filled with the fluid to be dispensed, and in use, when the pressure in the upper part of the container decreases below the predetermined pressure, the pressure in the lower part of the container will likewise decrease because the first chamber designed as a plunger will move such that the volume of the upper part of the container will decrease whereas the volume of the lower part of the container will increase, whereby also the fluid connection between the first chamber and the lower part of the container is released, so that gas flows from the first chamber to the lower part of the container and the pressure in the lower part of the container as well as the pressure in the upper part of the container will rise again, while the chamber designed as a plunger moves further upwards until the fluid connection is closed again by the closing member as a result of the increased pressure in the lower part of the container.

23. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 22, wherein the second chamber extends substantially in the lower part of the container.

Applicant : Jaap Herman Van't Hoff  
Serial No. : 10/657,250  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Page : 7 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 17042-004001

24. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the device is arranged to be received in a cylindrical container, the first chamber being of cylindrical design having an outside diameter corresponding to the inside diameter of the container, so that the first chamber can be positioned adjacent the bottom of the container, while the second chamber is situated above the first chamber and in an inner space of the container located above the first chamber, which inner space, in use, is filled with the product to be dispensed.

25. (Previously presented) A container provided with a device according to claim 11.

26-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently amended) A pressure control device for maintaining a constant predetermined excess pressure in an inner space of a fluid dispensing container, the pressure control device including:

- a cylinder having a closed first axial end and an open second axial end;
- the second axial end being adapted for fluid communication with a first chamber by means of a first opening;
- a closing member comprising a plunger having a stem axially extending from one axial end of the plunger;

- wherein a free end of the stem defines a first subsurface and an axial end of the plunger opposite the stem defines a second subsurface;

- the closing member being engageable for axial movement in the cylinder and defining a second chamber between the second subsurface on the opposite axial end of the plunger, and the first axial end of the cylinder and a space between the one axial end of the plunger and the first opening;

- the stem extending into the first opening and being provided with a circumferential recess located between the plunger and the first subsurface;

- the first opening is provided with a first sealing ring, which together with the stem defines a valve and which first sealing ring is positioned to extend either into the circumferential

Applicant : Jaap Herman Van't Hoff  
Serial No. : 10/657,250  
Filed : September 9, 2003  
Page : 8 of 15

Attorney's Docket No.: 17042-004001

recess of the stem of the closing member to define a released position of the valve or is adapted to engage the stem to close the first opening and thereby define a closed position of the valve;

a fluid connection being defined between a first chamber and an inner space of a fluid dispensing container by means of at least the first opening[,] and the space ~~and the opening~~;

the plunger on an outer circumference between its axial ends is provided with a second sealing ring which constitutes a gas seal between the outer circumference of the plunger and an inner circumferential surface of the cylinder;

wherein a resilient pressure element biases the closing member into a closed portion of the valve; and

wherein the second subsurface forms a cavity in the plunger of the closing member.